The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first frictional resistance generating portion having a portion extending in an axial direction, said first frictional resistance generating portion being inoperable in a first torsion angle range and operable in a second torsion angle ~~ranges~~ range provided on opposite sides of said first torsion angle range~~, respectively~~; and

a second frictional resistance generating portion being inoperable in said first and second torsion angle ranges and operable on opposite sides of said second torsion angle ranges

~~said first torsion angle range being located in any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and being defined by application of torsional vibrations~~.

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a first friction generating portion having a portion extending in an axial direction;

a second friction generating portion arranged to operate in parallel with said first friction generating portion in the rotating direction;

a first rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said first friction generating portion in an initial stage of a torsion angle~~, said torsion angle being located in any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and being defined by application of torsional vibrations~~; and

a second rotating-direction space forming portion being configured to prevent operation of said second friction generating portion up to a predetermined torsion angle when said first friction generating portion is operating.

18-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A frictional resistance generating mechanism arranged between two relatively rotatable members of a rotary mechanism for generating a frictional resistance in response to relative rotation occurring between the two members by torsional vibrations to damp the torsional vibrations, said frictional resistance generating mechanism comprising:

a large friction generating portion; and an intermediate friction generating portion generating an intermediate frictional resistance smaller than a frictional resistance generated by said large frictional resistance generating portion before said large friction generating portion starts operating, said intermediate friction generating portion having a portion being configured to extend in an axial direction ~~operate at any angle range of the two relatively rotatable members, and commencement of operation of said intermediate friction generating portion being defined by application of torsional vibrations~~.

21-49. (Cancelled).

50. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 14, wherein

said first and second frictional resistance generating portions include a friction washer having a concavity arranged to contact a convexity of one of the rotatable members to form an engagement portion.

51. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 17, wherein

said first and second friction generating portions include a friction washer having a concavity arranged to contact a convexity of one of the rotatable members to form an engagement portion.

52. (New) The frictional resistance generating mechanism according to claim 20, wherein

said large and intermediate friction generating portion include a friction washer having a concavity arranged to contact a convexity of one of the rotatable members to form an engagement portion.